

State of Wisconsin \ DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

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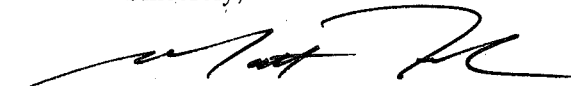
The Great Lakes Restoration Initiative is a great down payment on a truly historic effort – to protect and restore the most significant fresh water resource on Earth – our Great Lakes. For many years, people throughout the Great Lakes Region have envisioned this day. A day when, with a clear action plan in hand, we would be able to move forward with significant new resources to protect these fresh water gems. Thanks to the hard work of literally thousands of people across the region and with the leadership of President Obama and Congress, over \$100 million of the \$475 million in new federal dollars will be allocated through a Request For Proposal (RFP) process coordinated by EPA's Great Lakes National Program Office. Those proposals are due January 29, 2010.

This letter serves to establish the Wisconsin DNR's position on support for proposals submitted under the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI). We expect proposals to be consistent with program goals in each of the five focus areas in the RFP, which are very consistent with the Great Lakes Regional Collaboration (GLRC) and the Wisconsin Great Lakes Strategy. Specifically the Wisconsin DNR supports:

- **Proposals that embrace the goals of the Great Lakes Regional Collaboration** -- For years we were collectively unable to identify a cogent set of priorities for the Great Lakes Region to entities like Congress. The Collaboration is that clear, concise, blueprint for action.
<http://dnr.wi.gov/org/water/greatlakes/regional/index.htm>
- **Proposals that fit in with the Wisconsin Great Lakes Strategy: Restoring and Protecting our Great Lakes** -- The intent of this strategy is to provide greater specificity for Wisconsin's restoration and protection needs within the priorities identified in the Regional Collaboration. Many of the recommendations in the Regional Collaboration are necessarily broad to accommodate the differences across five Great Lakes and eight Great Lake states. The Wisconsin strategy refines these broad recommendations to be specific to Wisconsin and Lake Superior and Lake Michigan. The DNR Office of the Great Lakes led the development of this strategy while soliciting input and participation from a broad range of involved stakeholders with the interest of making the strategy as reflective of state interests as possible.
<http://dnr.wi.gov/org/water/greatlakes/wistrategy/index.htm>
- **Proposals that reflect the goals of other planning efforts for the Great Lakes.** Examples include the Joint Strategic Plan for Management of Great Lakes Fisheries, Lakewide Management Plans and the Wisconsin's Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Plan.

In short, it is our hope that Wisconsin funded activities will help implement the GLRC's goals via the Wisconsin Great Lakes Strategy. This approach will improve accountability and help ensure that State spending will produce clear, measurable results to help the Great Lakes Region demonstrate that this Federal "down payment" on the Great Lakes is a worthy investment to support in future Congressional budgets.

Sincerely,


Matt Frank, Secretary
Wisconsin DNR